ERCB Energy Resources Conservation Board
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Directive 072

December 16, 2008

Well Abandonment Notification Requirements

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB/Board) has approved this directive on December 16, 2008.

Dan McFayden
Chairman

Effective January 5, 2009, the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) requires that prior to any routine or nonroutine cased or open-hole well abandonment, notification to the ERCB must be reported electronically through the ERCB's Digital Data Submission (DDS) system. Currently, reporting notifications for any routine or nonroutine cased or open-hole well abandonment have been on a discretionary basis.

For cased-hole abandonments, notification must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to commencement of operations. For open-hole abandonments, notification must be submitted as soon as a decision has been made to abandon the well following a geological evaluation. All open-hole and cased-hole abandonments must be conducted in accordance with the requirements in *Directive 020: Well Abandonment Guide*.

Oil sands evaluation wells and test hole wells drilled within the surface mineable area are exempt from this requirement.

The requirements in this directive will be incorporated in a future revision of *Directive 020*.

Definitions

An open-hole well abandonment is the downhole abandonment of a well after drilling is complete but before the rig is released.

A cased-hole well abandonment is the downhole abandonment of a completed or cased well.

Enforcement

Failure to meet these notification requirements may result in Low Risk enforcement, in accordance with *Directive 019: ERCB Compliance Assurance— Enforcement*.